

THE SABRES' BLADE

April 8, 1998

South Mecklenburg High School

8900 Park Road

Charlotte, North Carolina, 28210

Volume XXV

DECA dominates state competition, sends sixteen to nationals

By Jennifer Collins

Sixty-four DECA students from South participated in North Carolina's annual Career Development Conference March 12-14 in Greensboro. These students competed with members of DECA chapters from all over the state.

The preparation for the NC DECA Career Development Conference began in August. Students worked hard to improve their written test scores and role play abilities. Under the guidance of experienced marketing teachers, South has dominated the North Carolina DECA Conference for years.

South's DECA chapter was recognized as the largest chapter in the state. Forty-nine South

students reached proficiency in their competitive events, and sixteen qualified to attend the National Career Development Conference in Denver, Colorado April 24-29. These students also received trophies at the final awards ceremony, where they were recognized as the best in the state in eight different events.

First place winners were Alicia Speller, who also received the King's College scholarship, Jason Edwards, and John van Brederode. Michael Ballenger, Jennifer Collins, Adam Dawson, Courtney Gerardi, Rachel Hockfield, Adam Howard, Jimmy Kimball, Josh LeQuire, Mary Llewelyn, Crystal Muse, Regina Robinson, Rachel Whitesell, and Cory Walski

were state finalists in their events.

These students will travel to Denver in April to compete with 10,000 DECA members from all over the United States, including Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Canada. In addition to competition, students will have the opportunity to visit Pikes Peak, the Air Force Academy, and the Denver Mint.

One main contributing factor to South's success is its large contingent of students. The strength in numbers dominated this year, as it has in the past. Because of the expense involved with the trip to nationals, many students and faculty members have begun to concentrate on finding business sponsorship for the five day event.



Staff Photographer

Karen and Eric will represent South at the ceremony.

Speckman, Whichard nominated for Phil Hughston Award

By Andrew Buchert

Eric Speckman and Karen Whichard have been chosen as South's Phil Hughston Award nominees. The Phil Hughston Award is one of the most prestigious awards given annually to outstanding high school student-athletes in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area.

The award is named after Phil Hughston, a Garinger High School football player who died from injuries sustained in a game against South Meck twenty-six years ago. Hughston was an excellent athlete, student, and leader.

The Phil Hughston Award is presented to one male and one female recipient each year based

on scholarship, leadership, community service, and athletic participation. Each high school in Charlotte-Mecklenburg can nominate a male and female athlete for the award.

Eric Speckman is president of the Senior Class and Spanish Honor Society. He plays soccer, and is also a member of the baseball team. Karen Whichard is secretary of ICC and participates in volleyball, basketball, and softball.

The Phil Hughston Award will be presented at a reception in April.

Editors' Note: At the time of this writing, Karen Whichard has been selected as one of three Phil Hughston finalists.

Carolinas Concert Association recognizes South senior

South senior Mine Machida represented North Carolina in the Yamaha (senior division) National Music Teacher's Association Piano Competition for the Southeastern Region at Florida State University in March. She was recognized by Carolinas Concert Association for her interest in classical music.

Mine has studied piano for twelve years and hopes to be a concert pianist. Her piano teacher, Mrs. Dzidra Reimanis, notes that Mine is an outstanding pupil and shows promise for an exceptional music career.

Mine has only been in the United States for three years. Her distinguished awards in-

clude the 1997 Grand Prize in the Charlotte Symphony Guild's Young Artists Competition and performing with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.

In 1996 and 1997 Mine won first place with honors in the Yamaha Competition for the Southeastern Region. She was also the 1996 "Queen of Music" winner for the North Carolina Federation of Junior Music Clubs.

Because the arts play an important part in the development of young minds, Carolinas Concert Association recognizes outstanding students with interests in the performing arts.

Information provided by Carolinas Concert Association.

Sabres hit the stage with 1998 Senior Follies frenzy

By Gia Clements

Where would you find a group of lounge singing nuns or a baseball team wearing spandex dresses? The only possible answer to this question is on the stage of the 1998 Senior Follies, which hit the auditorium February 27 and 28. Once again the senior class showed off their abilities to poke fun at teachers, Interkeys, and, of course, cafeteria food. This year the program was presented to a new beat, with the theme song still stuck in many heads-'One Love' by Bob Marley.

Under the watchful eyes of the Senior Follies advisers, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Duke, and Ms. Curl, an assortment of eager Sabres put together this year's edition of Senior Follies. Perhaps the most excited of the crew were the five emcees, Corey Robinson, Gia Clements, Matt Jordan, Todd Milroy, and Dennis Cowardin. These emcees will be remembered as the slightly over-zealous cheerleaders or the improved version of the Superbowl frogs, and there is always their re-enactment of the famous Interkey auditions to remember.

Behind stage on opening night the stage crew never stopped moving. Busily, they



Staff Photographer

Gia Clements and Andy Babcock on the stage of Senior Follies.

set up the props for the next act and herded the excited seniors to and from the stage. Everyone was smiling, a few were scared, but most of them were just relieved that the time to put all their hard work on display had finally arrived. The audience Friday night didn't let anyone down; their laughter helped calm the nerves of many nervous seniors. With an audience of over 375 people there was no time for stage fright; even those who had never been on stage before managed to pull it together in time for the show.

Senior Follies went as well as was expected and made many of the cast and crew realize just how close the end of the year is. Tears filled the eyes of many seniors and parents as Shawn Millington played the closing song and the slide show began. For some, it was the first time to realize that this was their last year at South, and for others, they realized just how special the time left will be. Thank you Senior Follies participants. Your time, efforts, and dedication will be remembered for years to come.

Spring
Break
Preview...

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Teacher Spotlight:
Jim Bradley

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Prom '98:
A Night to
Remember

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A great movie, but not good enough for Hollywood

By Muhammad Abdullah

It's Oscar time again and excitement abounds everywhere-but not in the black community. There are many who have said, and as many who have felt that all this talk about race relations is "enough already. Let's move on."

Unfortunately, it is apparent that there are some issues so strong- so deeply embedded in who we are that it skews our ordinarily good vision and sound judgment. Race is such an issue, and the near snubbing of the movie "Amistad" for the Academy Awards is a prime example.

In many respects, the Oscars are a balance sheet of the state of America's cultural conscience. Our arts, particularly film, say a great deal about who we are and what we value. They say as much about our sensitivities, our challenges and our character. The film "Amistad"- which depicts the historical account of the revolt of African slaves while aboard La Amistad, and their sensational trial and

ultimate return to Africa-is a story that has been quietly buried in the dusty pages of history. Sadly, the Academy apparently thinks it should stay that way.

As one who grew up in the segregated South and who vividly remembers the tales of "Little Black Sambo" in textbooks, along with "Steppin Fetchit" and "Buck-wheat" on the screen, any revisiting of our history is painful for me, as I suspect it must be for many whites. I have seen enough stories about slavery and Jim Crow to last me two lifetimes. The last thing I want to do is go see a story about slaves catching hell - no matter how cinematically well done.

But since I know the film's producer, Debbie Allen, and since my wife went to scout the movie first and said it's OK, I knew I would eventually have to go see this film. To make matters worse, in January I was scheduled to visit West Africa from which the Amistad slaves were taken. I had no choice- it was a film I would have to see, and I went expecting the worst.

Now most black folks, especially young black males, carry anger just beneath the surface. It simmers like a low grade fever. I suspect that a lot of white folks carry a resentment, guilt or ambiguity that lingers just below their emotional surface as well. It is why we often tiptoe around each other and "sensitive issues." I was afraid that "Amistad" would inadvertently become another trigger- catapulting us into dangerous waters. So I went prepared to come out angry.

The theater was largely populated by white folks, with just a sprinkling of blacks. No one spoke. We all sat mesmerized as the movie took us back through time along an emotional roller coaster that we could not have begun to predict. There was pain, sure enough, but there was laughter too and ample evidence of good people among both whites and blacks. The triumph of human dignity and the powerful eloquence of the characters- the portrayal of former President Adams and the slave Cinque is some of the

best work ever produced on any screen- were so inspirational that it "snatched a tear" out of me. I was touched as were all in the theater. This is a great film. It takes a most difficult subject, yet finds a way to both inspire and teach us something of enduring value. It is a lesson Hollywood has missed.

"Amistad" was not released widely. There are still parts of America where it has yet to play, others where it will never arrive. Most will not see this therapeutic film until it hits the video market. But I am proud that Charlotte not only received it, but embraced it so well.

Anthony Hopkins' performance in "Amistad" is fairly indicative of Hollywood- and sadly reflects how far we still have to go. Perhaps, we should be content that the film even got made. Maybe this is "as good as it gets."

Muhammad Abdullah is a *Charlotte Observer* columnist, lecturer, consultant, and a former university admissions officer and lawyer from Charlotte.

Quick Take on Opinions

Expectations of role models left unfulfilled

When did stardom give stars "above the law" privileges? On June 28, 1997, boxer Mike Tyson purposely bit his opponent Evander Holyfield, but never was any legal action taken. Holyfield did not press charges.

Marv Albert, once a respected college and NBA commentator, has now been accused of sexual harassment and misconduct.

Each of these incidents was highly publicized on television, and many children witnessed these adults acting improperly. If they were not biting, fighting, or harassing others, they were doing drugs. The next generation of adults will never progress if all we have to look up to is trash.

Jason Woodyard

The Spartan Shield

Sun Valley High School

Stress and high school

Most adults generally believe that high school students have very little stress compared to their own lives. Yet, the years of high school are probably the hardest in life.

The stress begins in ninth grade. Tenth grade is a time for more responsibility. Students start to notice an even bigger increase in the difficulty of course work and a bigger push to think about college.

Students in the eleventh grade have the most stress. It is the year when most students take the PSAT and the SAT for scholarships and college acceptance.

Some consider the senior year to be more relaxed. Yet, seniors are expected to apply to colleges if they have not already done so, and keep their grades up to ensure a place in those colleges.

High school may well be the most stressful time in a person's life. So the question remains, why are high school students expected to wake up earlier, go to bed later, and still retain their sanity?

Richard Rykens

The Harding Ram Page

Harding High School

College applications to go colorblind

In 1978, the Supreme Court allowed colleges to give admission preferences to racial minorities.

Currently, the North Carolina University system gives black and Native American students a "plus factor" in admissions, though it is not as drastic as many imagine.

Opponents of affirmative action say it discriminates against whites. Supporters say it is needed to counter the lingering effects of segregation, such as the dearth of black alumni. Children of alumni also receive a "plus factor."

David Donovan

The North Star

North Meck High School

Former Sabre reflects on first year at Carolina

By Cliff Mauriello

Seniors look forward to graduation for many reasons. It marks an end to four long years at South, the successful completion of the senior exit project, a relaxing summer, and the vision of new opportunity. This opportunity, or escape, is manifested by going away to college.

College represents a lot of freedoms that most seniors pine for. There is no one mandating when to go to class, when to be home, when to study, or who one's friends can be. There is always something to do, and often the biggest decision to make is which frat party to attend.

Of course, one must remember that parents spend their money for their children to study, but many freshmen are almost certain to overlook this important aspect of college those first few weeks of class. And then they're in trouble.

Although the course load is much easier in college, the material presented in the course load is not. Science professors expect their students to learn quickly the fundamentals of their respective studies. English professors demand that their pupils keep up with an incredible amount of reading. Math professors insist that assignments be completed correctly. There is little tolerance for error, especially on a midterm or an exam.

Professors and instructors proceed at a rapid pace. They have a lot of material to cover in the short period of fifteen weeks. Students must get off to a good start and keep stride, or there is very little chance for success.

In spite of all this, there really

is no reason why a student should not do well in class and have a whole lot of fun at the same time. The secret is time management. If one can wisely budget when he or she will study and when he or she will go out, it is a safe bet that college will be a great experience both socially and academically.

Some tips include using the library during the day in between classes, getting work done the day it is assigned, getting an early start on projects and papers, and studying ahead of time for midterms. This last piece of advice is especially important. It is easier to correct a weak area in a course if you discover it several days before a test than if you catch it the night before. And one never knows when something will come up, so it is important to get ahead.

Of course, college isn't all books and libraries and stuffy old professors. Basketball and football games, concerts, speeches, parties, outings, and just hanging out with friends provide the memories that bring alumni to tears when they come back to visit their old college campuses. Victory celebrations after an intramural competition, camping out for tickets, and Friday night road trips are just as important as classes. But they must be kept in proportion.

College is a fabulous time for those who are able to keep their heads in the whirlwind of activity that exists on any campus, but it is also a dangerous place for those who can be easily distracted. College is what one makes of it. Make it special. Don't make it a disaster.

Former Sabres' Blade editor Cliff Mauriello is a freshman at UNC Chapel Hill.



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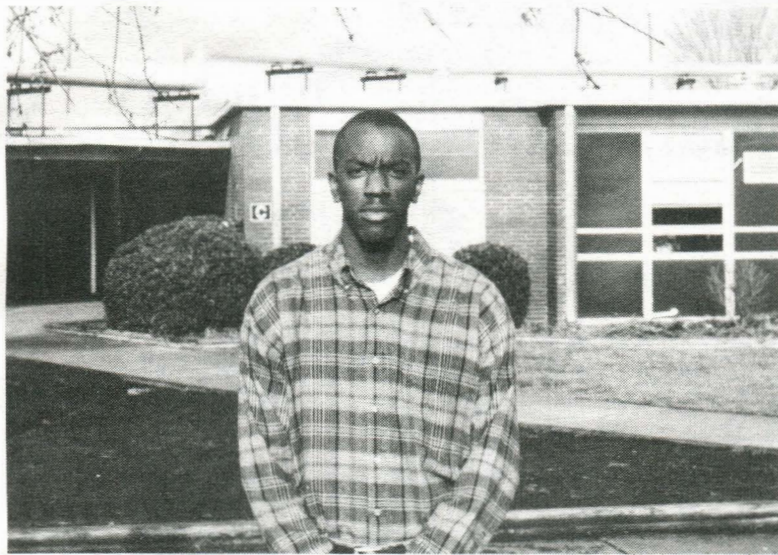
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Faces in the Crowd



Staff Photographer

Name: Marcus Walton
Birthday: September 17
Role Model: Father
Favorite Class: U.S. History AP
Pet Peeve: False impressions
Color: Red

Soaring to new heights

By Elizabeth Berry

Junior Marcus Walton is characterized by determination and persistence. Once he sets his mind to something, he puts everything he has towards accomplishing the goal.

Marcus is best known at South for his involvement in ROTC. He has participated in the program since his freshman year, and currently holds the high rank of lieutenant. "Although Marcus is slow walkin' and slow talkin', he always has a purpose in mind," said ROTC Senior Chief Posey.

Besides his numerous responsibilities with ROTC, Marcus also challenges himself academically. He is taking a full schedule of AP and AG classes, and especially enjoys his AP U.S. History class.

Since the fifth grade, Marcus

has actively played the trumpet. He currently performs with the Jazz Band at South. He is also involved in his youth group at Central Church of God.

Marcus has previously been a participant in track. Last year he ran the hundred yard dash and competed in the long jump. He was unable to compete this year due to his busy schedule.

Marcus's hobby lies in his extreme interest in aviation. He currently holds a pilot's certificate, and he obtained his solo license in October. He is also an active member of the Civil Air Patrol.

In his spare time Marcus cleans aircraft for the airline British Airways at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. He plans to attend Jacksonville University in Florida, and then join the U.S. Marine Corps as a pilot.

Charlotte's master musician

By Jennifer Collins

Senior Hillary Vaden strongly holds this year's recognition as "biggest mouth" for Senior Superlatives. Within the last four years, Vaden has built an impressive name for herself. As a member of South's orchestra, Beta Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Peaceful Sabres, and president of Art Honor Society, much of her time is consumed by extra-curricular activities.

Since the age of four, Hillary has played the cello. For the past ten years she has been a participant in the Youth Symphony. Recently Hillary was selected to join the National Competition in Pittsburgh. Vaden is one of sixteen cello players in the nation to be given this opportunity and is Charlotte's first participant.

Although undecided about college, Furman university awarded Hillary the largest string scholarship ever given.

Hillary's talents are not limited to music alone. As a student in Art IV AP, her creative ability has expanded. Vaden intends to minor in art because of a first place scholarship award from the Matthews Art Festival. Additional art awards include five silver and one gold scholastic award keys, publication of her work by the Arts and Science Council, and third place in South's Reflections contest.

In addition to her art and musical success, Hillary is a strong student. She will graduate seventeenth in the class, and had a first semester GPA of 4.8. Vaden represents the best of the senior class.

Should students who are caught skipping class be immediately suspended?

"Go ahead and do it, because they shouldn't be skipping in the first place."

Raeford Potts, 9th

"I think it's good because more students are going to class."

Tressica Patton, 12th

"If you're going to skip, you should be at home anyway."

Christine Hunt, 11th

"I don't think it's right to suspend you for skipping, because you're leaving school in the first place."

Nick Sharp, 12th

"If they are going to get caught, it shouldn't be by the administrators sweeping the halls."

Tiffany Corbell, 10th

"I think it is absolutely ludicrous that they are storming the halls, when they should be dealing with more important matters."

Rocky Williams, 10th

"I think it is a waste of their time. They can't make kids stay in school if they don't want to be here."

Brad Johnson, 11th

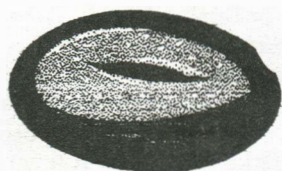


Staff Photographer

Name: Hillary Vaden
Preferred Food: Italian
Color: Deep Green and Blue
Role Model: Cello Teacher
Class Rank: 17 of 332
Birthday: February 17

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Answers to Senior Mysteries:
Deepa Tungare and Dominique McFadden

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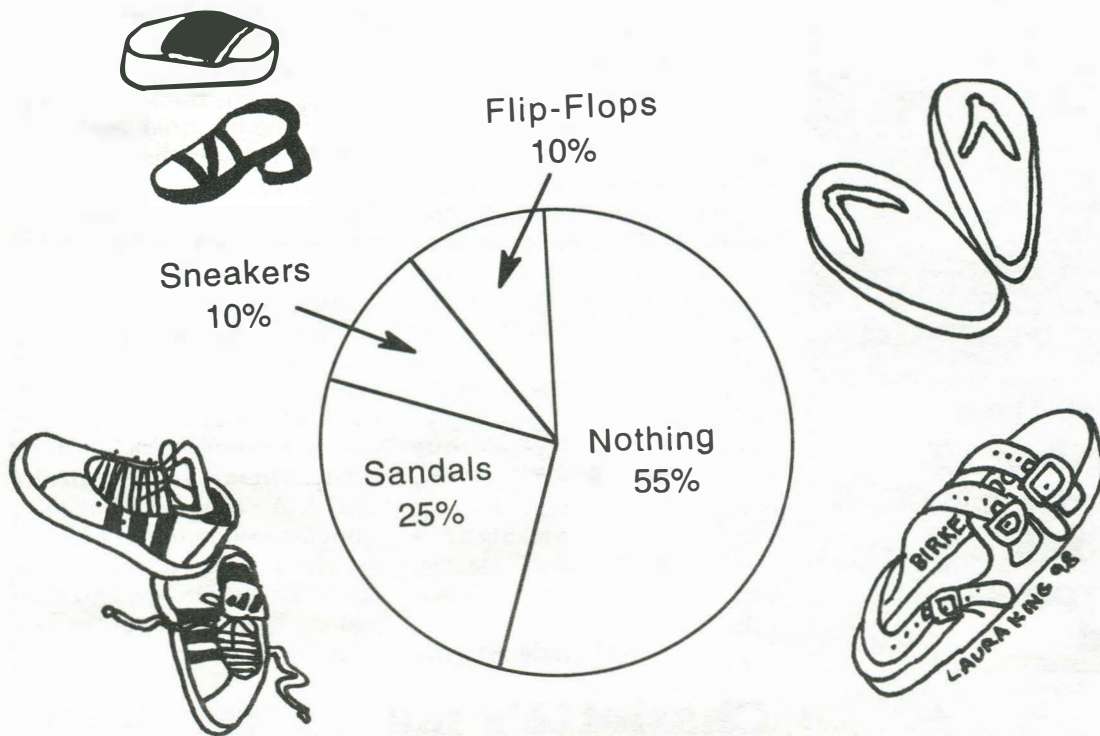


Fun in the sun

By Megan McKnight

This page is dedicated to all you Spring Breakers out there who have been dreaming about this day since the middle of August. The months of day dreaming during class about the gentle murmur of the ocean are over and it is time to turn this dream into reality. Ten days of uninterrupted bliss. No homework, no exams, just lots of relaxing in the sun with your friends. The staff decided that in honor of this most joyous occasion, to devote an entire two pages to Spring Break. There are lots of suggestions to make your Spring Break fun and safe, so be sure to check it all out. Hopefully, these pages will provide you with some helpful suggestions and insight to better your Spring Break experience. Just remember to have fun in the sun, but stay safe!

What are you wearing on your feet?



Itinerary

1. Pack bags Tuesday night. Leave for school Wednesday armed with an early dismissal.
2. Load CD player with favorite road trip music. Beat traffic to 521 and count the cows as you go.
3. Four hours and several pit-stops later, begin the search for the elusive house key.
4. Since you haven't located a Bojangles for breakfast, wake up and feast on left-over snacks from the trip down.
5. Throw on your brand new bathing suit and head out for the first day of fun in the sun.
6. After a long day of longing for sunscreen, and beating off all those annoying gnats and small children, return home and fight for the shower.
7. After a struggle to hide the just-fried look, head out for a night on the town.
8. Repeat steps six and seven as many times as possible. Be sure to include random road trips!- Check out some of our suggestions if you're clueless.
9. The day you've been dreading has finally arrived, and it's time to find the lost car keys, pagers, and clothing.
10. Clean out the fridge; splurge on the chocolate ice cream and potato chips.
11. Round up everything and everyone and begin stuffing all of it back into your car; search for gas money.
12. Head home, and back to school. The end is in sight.

Think before you drink

By Nicole Ewing

April 9th. This date has been marked on everyone's calendar since school started, and we've been counting down the days since Christmas break. All students look forward to Spring Break. It's a chance to get a real tan, get away from school pressures, and have a week of fun with friends. Unfortunately, many Spring Breakers take advantage of this vacation and use it for one reason- to drink. No parents to dictate orders to you and a beach house for you and your friends four hours away from Charlotte; it could be the perfect

opportunity to have "illegal" fun without getting caught, but that doesn't mean it's right.

No one really thinks about the consequences of drinking because Spring Break is supposed to be a carefree time. Each year during Spring Break many teenagers are killed or injured due to drinking. Just think, it could be your best friend, your boyfriend or girlfriend, or even you that becomes part of these statistics. Everything you need may be in walking distance while you are at the beach, but picture this. You are walking back to

your house after a party and you have had a little too much to drink. All of the sudden, a police car pulls up next to you. You try to act normal, but the alcohol has had its effect on you. Stumbling, you try to convince the cop that you haven't been drinking, but it's too late. Waking up in a cell the next morning, you begin thinking of how you are going to explain this to your parents. You can guess what happens next.

Of course, this scenario won't necessarily happen, but it's not impossible. We've all heard the stories about past Spring Breaks; the parties, the

drugs, the fights-not a pretty sight. Spring Break is a time to enjoy yourself. It's a time to be with friends, not isolated in the bathroom.

This might sound like your mom talking, but for once, what she's telling you could actually have an effect on you. Listen to your parents; you will want to see them again. Plus, it is highly possible to have a blast during Spring Break without getting trashed. There's lots to do at the beach besides drinking. You are supposed to have the time of your life, not lose your life.

So, think before you drink

How about a day trip? Here are some suggestions.

Charleston, S.C.

By Gia Clements

If you are looking for a complete change of scenery, it will be easy to find in Charleston S.C. The first thing that hits you about this town is its resemblance to something right out of a Charles Dickens' novel. Charleston is packed with things to do. Everything can be done by foot, so leave your car in a nearby parking deck. There is a neat open air market where you can buy everything from postcards to sweet grass baskets. If you get tired of sight-seeing, take a break and sit on the swings by the bay. Charleston is one of the best little towns on the east coast and it's perfect for a day trip.

Crowders Mountain

By Gia Clements

If you are feeling a little sluggish after eating all those marshmallow chicks and jelly beans, take a forty minute trip up I-85N to Crowders Mountain. Many visitors find it a welcome change from the traffic jams and loud noise of a city. There are lots of different trails to try, each one varying in length and difficulty. A favorite trail of many is a five mile hike up to the top of the mountain which includes great rest areas for photo-ops and picnics. The views are great and the feeling of accomplishment you'll get after a long hike is well worth a day away from Charlotte.

North Myrtle Beach

By Gia Clements

Going to North Myrtle Beach is a little more than a day trip if you're not already at the beach, but it's so much fun that we had to include it. Outlets are found everywhere in North Myrtle, selling last year's styles from Eddie Bauer to Adidas. There is also Barefoot Landing, where you can feed fish the size of a large dog, or stock up on plenty of knick-knacks and souvenirs. If the amusement parks are not calling to you, make time to eat at some of the theme restaurants like Planet Hollywood or Hard Rock Cafe. Have fun in Myrtle Beach but keep an eye on how much money you spend.

Waxhaw, N.C.

By Karen Whichard

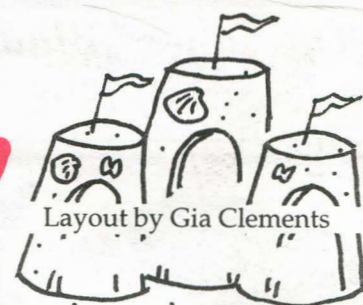
Okay, so you could not quite make it to the beach for Spring Break. No big deal. Just fill up another day in Charlotte with a trip to Waxhaw, N.C. Often on the short end of jokes, Waxhaw is a nice, quiet town about twenty minutes from South Meck. After a short jaunt down Highway 16 and a few rattles over the railroad tracks, you'll be there. The main street of Waxhaw is full of unique antique shops and a few neat restaurants. Waxhaw is perfect for the budget-restricted student. We would tell you more, but Waxhaw is the type of place you should discover on your own.

Lake Norman

By Megan McKnight

Do not stress if your cash flow problems limit your ability to travel down to the beach for Spring Break. There is still a chance you'll have even more fun at home. Just hop on I-77N for a quick thirty minute drive and you will find yourself at Lake Norman. You can spend your day swimming and sunning and, if you are lucky enough, find a friend with a boat and water skis. Lake Norman has more to offer than a day of rest in the sun. You could always check out nearby Davidson College. Whatever you do, just remember the one unbreakable rule of Spring Break-have fun!

Break Preview



Layout by Gia Clements

Keep your eye on the prize

By Gia Clements

So the big day is finally here. Well, almost. But we all know that the count down to April 9th began way back in January. Suitcases stuffed with unnecessary clothing, housing arrangements made, and boxes of food from SAM's are waiting patiently for you at home. Stay calm and focused though, even if all you want to do is run around with a bathing suit on your head. Spring Break may bring many smiles but the aftermath could be very depressing.

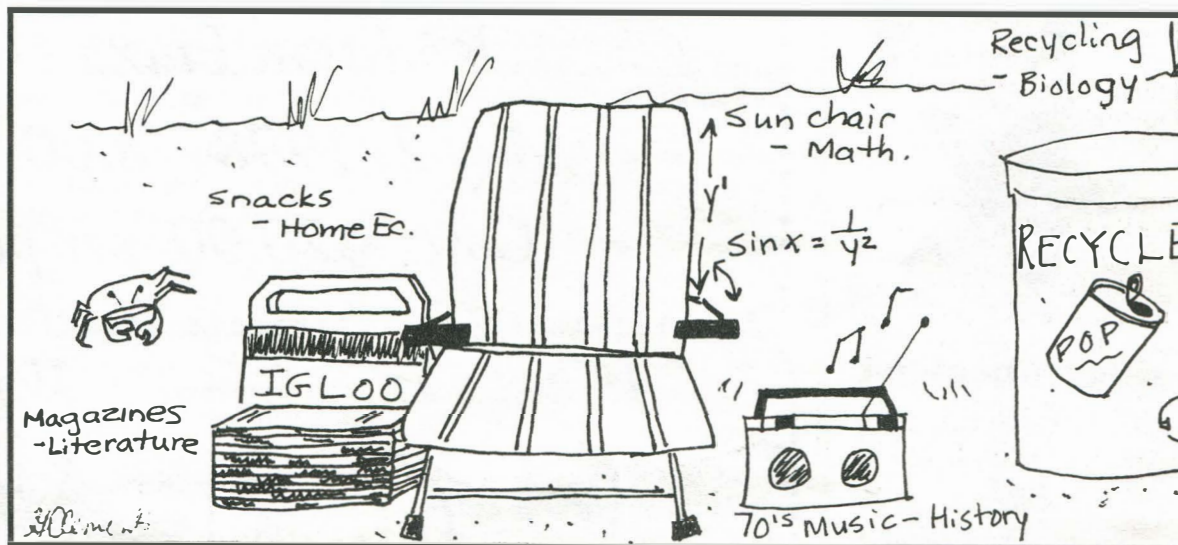
Make sure that you haven't neglected the important things in the build up to Spring Break, such as your schoolwork. Don't come back from the beach and realize that you've forgotten all about the senior exit or AP exams. The beach may be a great time to work on a tan but when it comes down to it, such as whether or not you graduate, you may want to consider making it a time to study. Study. That

crucial word tends to ring hollow in the ears of many beach-bound seniors, but it is also the word that could decide what you do on June 5, 1998. This sacred date is only a mere forty-six days after returning from the sunkissed beaches of North and South Carolina.

Please don't let Spring Fever ruin your future. Slacking off a little may cause your college to take back your acceptance. Most teachers have a good heart and don't pile on the work over the holidays.

If your teacher does accidentally give you work over the holiday, go ahead, give him a dirty look, but don't just forget about the work. Chances are it could help your grade if the pre-break excitement causes you to forget about the last five tests or the random quiz here and there. Good luck seniors. A time to relax is finally here. Just don't relax too much because all 332 of us are expected to graduate this year.

School applies to everything...



Staying suntan savvy

By Gia Clements

Many of the Sabres heading for the beach this Spring Break have one goal in mind: to soak up lots of sun and return to Charlotte a golden bronze. Those who are fair-skinned are all too familiar to the irritation of a pink sunburn. For many fair-skinned individuals a dark beige will have to do. Smothering on lots of sunscreen is something all beach goers should do regardless of skin type.

Melanoma is a disease many tanners will face later in life. For those of you who do not know what melanoma is, it is skin cancer, and it is killing more people

every day. Melanoma strikes the skin after years of soaking up harmful UVA and UVB rays. Many think that those who are already tan, or maintain a tan throughout the winter, are less likely to have Melanoma. This is not true at all. Tanning beds and hours in the sun are dangerous to the skin, no matter how often you do it.

A person of medium skin coloring can only stay in the sun for a maximum of 15-20 minutes before the skin begins to burn. Applying a lotion with an SPF of 15 increases this

amount of time by fifteen. Be sure to re-apply after going in the water, even if it's 'water-proof.' Just think of all those millions of skin cells you could be saving by applying a light layer of SPF protection between you and the sun.

No one is immune to skin cancer. Without proper precautions many of one's "cute freckles" will turn into malignant moles, which, if detected early can be removed by a dermatologist with a laser. Be careful in the sun. You have to live a long time before you can grow old and retire in Florida.

What's going in your suitcase?

By Gia Clements

All weather attire for seven days of drought, flood, and snow.
Macaroni and Cheese
Bathing suit
Sun glasses
Sun-in, save money on expensive highlights!
Hairbrush
Sunscreen (SPF 15 to SPF 50)
Make-up (this one is probably just for girls)
Food coupons, lots of them.
Monopoly
Biology book-makes a great door stop!
Towels, for the bath and the beach-Mickey Mouse is still cool.
Aloe to prevent the pain of a salmon pink burn.
Magazine and books to keep busy on the beach
Orange juice
Sleeping bags, if you didn't win the coin toss for the bed.
Pillows
Duct-tape, never leave home without it.
Electrical tape, kin to duct-tape.
The Game of Life-don't forget to name your spouse!
Back pack, it's a security item for many.
Money

Mom and Dad's credit card if at all possible.
Flip flops for the beach
Birks for walking around the house/condo/RV.
Trendy shoes for going out with friends.
Set of scales. Make sure your prom dress will still fit.
Phone numbers of all local take-out places.

Microwave popcorn
Movies for rainy days
Alarm clock-so you can watch the sun rise.
Camera-to capture pictures of everyone having fun.
Toothbrush and toothpaste
A pack of cards- you could always impress Grandma and learn to play Bridge!
Gas money to get home.



An escape from the ordinary

By Elizabeth Berry

There is no law requiring that every Spring Break must be spent on a beach in North or South Carolina. Many students are fortunate enough to enjoy a vacation more than three hundred miles away from our Charlotte homes. The destination possibilities are endless when it comes to Spring Break.

One way to get away from the crowds at the beach while still getting some rays is to take a Caribbean cruise. Cruises nowadays cost about as much as renting that shack you refer to as a house. On a cruise you even have the luxury of sleeping on a real bed, not the floor. On a cruise you have all the conveniences of living in a hotel and you don't have to worry about when you will eat your next meal. They even serve pizza twenty-four hours a day. After you experience everything on the ship, you are able to leave to visit and tour some of the tropical ports of call in the Caribbean.

Europe is another wonderful way to spend those hard earned days off. It might be a little expensive for you to go,

but try to convince your parents that it would be a wonderful chance to bond before you leave for college. Even though London does not have the best weather, the sights to see are extraordinary. The cultural experience will stay with you your entire life. The best thing about a vacation in England is that you are but a flight away from other great cities including Paris, Rome, Madrid, and Vienna.

Another glorious way to spend an eventful Spring Break is to hike part of the Appalachian Trail. Fortunately, we live only three hours away and you can choose to go for a day or for the whole week. It is a great escape from the materialistic ideals of the world into the peaceful bliss of nature. Up there, you don't have to worry about what you're wearing or how you smell (there are no showers on the trail).

These helpful suggestions don't necessarily have to be put into effect, but if you are looking for a change of direction, I highly recommend these. Have fun this Spring Break, no matter what you do or where you go.

PROM '98

A Night to Remember
Radisson Plaza Hotel
May 2, 1998 8:00-12:00
Cost: \$20.00 per person

Guy's Checklist

8:30 Wake up, two bowls of cereal, go to SAT.

12:00 Three hours without food! Go to McDonald's for two Super-Value meals.

12:30-5:00 Watch whatever game is on with your boys.

5:30 Oh yeah! Prom! You must have forgotten. Jump in the shower to wash off the smell of Doritos.

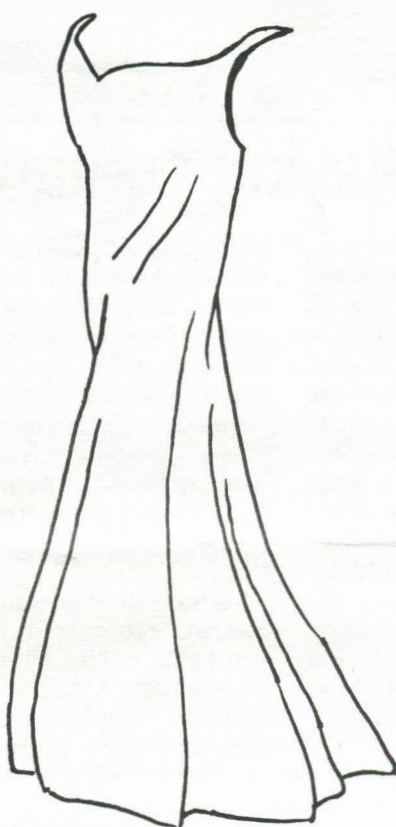
5:40 Go downstairs for a "light" meal.

6:00 Pick up corsage.

6:30 Put on tux.

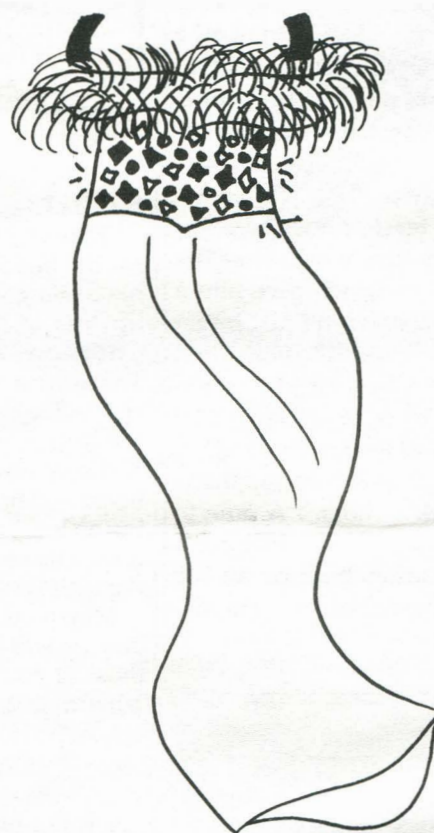
6:45 Limo arrives, go to pick up your date. Whew! What a day!

What's In



Ball gowns, sleek, black or pastel colors, long, fitted, matching accessories, high heels

What's Out



Poofy, layered, ruffles, short, too much jewelry, flat or stacked heels



Girls Checklist

8:00 Wake up, small fruit breakfast, leave for SAT!

12:00 After sitting through three grueling hours of testing, rush home to prepare for a day of pampering.

1:00 Nail appointment with best friend.

3:00 Grab an apple and Diet Coke to curb your hunger and leave for your hair and makeup appointment.

5:00 The appointment ran over! Hurry home, and make sure your hair and makeup stay in place.

6:00 Get mom to run out and buy spare panty hose and safety pins; you never know if that dress will fall apart on the dance floor.

6:30 Call best friend and get excited!

6:45 Get mom to fix your hair for the third time; re-apply powder.

7:00 Anxiously await date.

7:15 Put on corsage and boutonniere; get ready for 15 minutes of modeling for parents and neighbors.

7:30 Hop in that gorgeous limo, pick up the rest of the crew, and head off for the night of your life!



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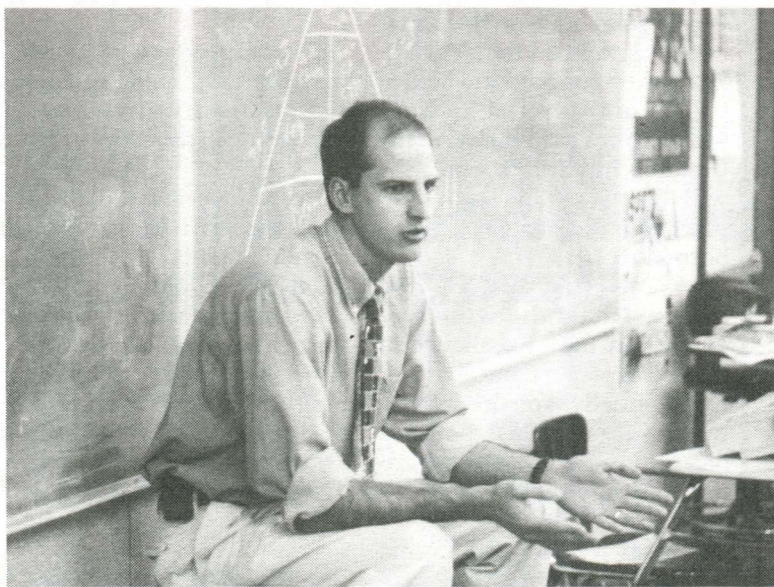
Spotlight: Jim Bradley keeps Sabres in top condition

By Andrew Buchert

Mr. Jim Bradley has been treating athletic injuries and educating students in sports medicine at South for the past ten years. As the coordinator of the Sports Medicine program, Bradley is responsible for all of the medical aspects necessary for athletic events at South. "My goal is to make sure that every athlete is well taken care of and is able to walk across the stage at graduation without any pain," said Mr. Bradley.

Because the prevention of injuries is just as important as their treatment, Mr. Bradley meets with each individual athlete well before game time to ensure that the proper preventive measures are taken. As well as taping and padding athletes, he makes sure that all the equipment that is needed for medical emergencies is on the field and easily accessible.

During games Mr. Bradley monitors the field for injuries, while also checking the athletes on the sidelines and benches for cuts and bruises. "You feel like you're sitting there just waiting for something to happen, but at the same time you don't want anything to happen," said Bradley. "We'd rather go through



Staff Photographer

Mr. Bradley teaches three levels of Sports Medicine classes.

a whole game and not do a thing." After an athlete is injured he examines the athlete to determine the severity of the injury, and then notifies the parents about setting up a doctor's appointment.

When a major injury occurs on the playing field, Mr. Bradley takes control of the situation to ensure that the athlete doesn't injure himself further. He assesses the injury of the athlete and determines whether he can treat it or if it warrants transport to the hospital. Bradley insti-

tuted an emergency plan at South to effectively handle serious injuries and traumas. "In the case of an emergency, my job is to monitor the victim until further help arrives," said Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Bradley brings to South an extensive knowledge of medicine and sports injury management. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Catawba College, where he majored in Sports Medicine and Physical Education, and a Masters degree in Health and Physical Education

from Tennessee Tech University. He is certified by the National Athletic Trainer's Association, and is also a certified emergency medical technician.

Mr. Bradley has worked very hard building the sports medicine program at South. The program has grown from one or two small classes when he first arrived to three levels and multiple classes of each level. Now Mr. Bradley teaches Sports Medicine I, II, and III classes. "I feel like we have the best program in Charlotte," said Bradley.

Any medical situations that arise during the course of the school day are immediately referred to Mr. Bradley. From simple splinters to broken bones, he coordinates the handling and treatment of any injuries obtained on campus. "A lot of students come to school sick or have medical problems, and my job is to take care of these students should an emergency situation arise," said Bradley. Oftentimes students in physical education classes present injuries such as broken bones and sprained ankles to Mr. Bradley.

As a certified emergency medical technician, Mr. Bradley used to work with the Pineville Fire Department. Regrettably,

he is no longer able to work with them, partly due to the fact that he has since moved out of Pineville and desires to spend more time with his family. He and his wife, Erin, are expecting their first child in April. "Fire fighting was a lot of hard work, but a lot of fun, and I do miss it," said Mr. Bradley. "It was the way I relaxed." But now Mr. Bradley has found new ways to relax - he enjoys doing yard work and is interested in learning carpentry and woodworking.

Bradley volunteers his services to organizations and other events that are in need of trainers. He's covered the state wrestling tournament, the state volleyball tournament, AAU basketball tournament, and this past summer worked with the WNBA.

When asked what he enjoys about athletic training, Bradley recalls that he was very active in sports until he was injured; then he was very well taken care of by high school trainers. "It's a great challenge, a challenge which I really enjoy," said Bradley. "I care about my students and my athletes a lot, and I am very protective of my athletes. I want to make sure that they are well taken care of."

Softball in full swing

By Leah Reed

As the 1998 softball season gets underway, the Sabres have their third different coach in as many seasons. Although there has been a revolving door at the top of the program, the team remains mostly intact from last season.

The team is extremely young. The only seniors are Karen Whichard and Jacquie Dubois. Even though there are only two seniors, last year's starting pitcher Kristy Davis returns, and is joined by freshman southpaw Erica Flaviani. The infield only has one new player, with

the sophomore all-conference duo Jessica Klem and Lisa Coppedge returning. The outfield is slightly younger; Jacquie Dubois is the only returning starter.

Since the Sabres are so young this season, the key to success will be playing error-free ball. The hitting lineup is strong, and the team is confident that they can hit with anyone in the conference. "We need to learn to focus more, and cut back on errors," said senior co-captain Karen Whichard. "If we can do that, we should secure a berth in the state playoffs and be a threat in the conference."

Sabre baseball working towards conference top three

By Matt Strother

The crack of bats and the calls of "hey, batter, batter!" signal the start of the baseball season. Under the leadership of Coach Bagwell, the baseball team is off to a great start and could very well finish in the Southwestern 4A conference top three.

Although the team is young and inexperienced, it consists of a great deal of talent. Senior Chris Jones, pre-season All-American and All-Conference last year, is considered the top professional prospect in North Carolina. He recently signed a

full scholarship to N.C. State University.

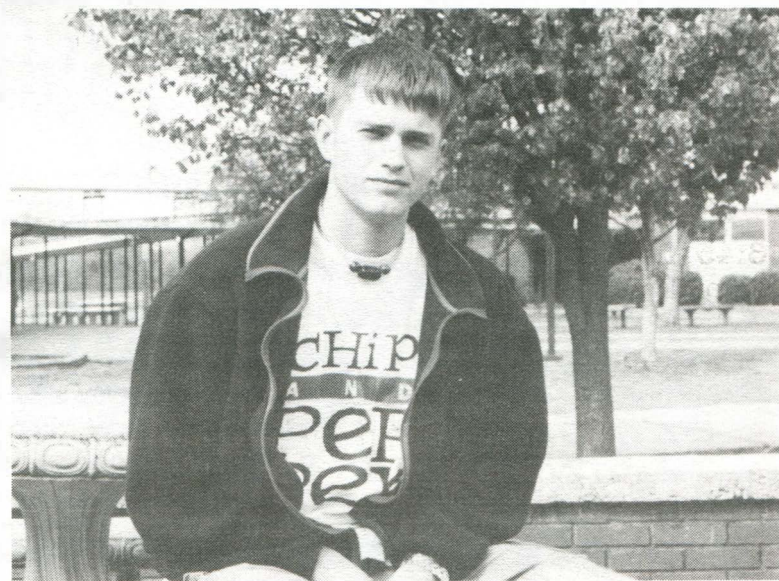
Junior Corey Wood, who was 8-3 last year, is one of the conference's top pitchers this year. He won the Coach's Award last season, and was a key member in last year's playoff run. Junior Craig Withrow covers the outfield with quickness and has a GPA above 4.0.

The leading hitter so far this season is sophomore Deron Chase. Patrick Allen, also a sophomore, is the starting shortstop, and shows exceptional speed and an above average range.

By Gia Clements

The baseball program at South has become synonymous with two things: success and Chris Jones. For those of you that have been living in a closet for the past year, Chris Jones is the star pitcher for the Sabres' varsity baseball team. Not only does Jones have one of the best pitching arms in the state, but he is also being carefully watched by various major league scouts including the Cincinnati Reds' scout Steve Kring.

A long standing rivalry between South Meck and Providence has particularly brought attention to the baseball program. Last season, Providence may have triumphed in the end, but looking at the record so far this season, South appears to have the upper hand. If it is up to Chris Jones, the team will continue to have the upper hand, thanks to his innate ability to strike out numerous members of the opposing team. His overall record of strikes and walks is nothing to joke about; in fact, most scouts are stunned by it. Not many high school seniors can boast a record of 154 strikeouts and 12 walks, two of which were intentional, in 95 innings. This impressive record, combined with a dangerous fastball



Staff Photographer

Chris Jones is being watched by several major league scouts.

reaching 89mph makes Jones not only the best player in the state, but also makes him a very popular draft choice.

All this attention Jones has received has caused only minute changes in his performance and his relationships with his teammates. "Most of them aren't jealous of all the attention; they're all really understanding," said Jones about his teammates.

With all the attention and pressure being put on Jones this year, it is not surprising that sometimes he misses not having

a normal senior year. While much of the senior class worries about SAT's and college applications, Jones has to deal with reporters bombarding him with interviews, and scouts watching his every move. No pressure, of course!

Through it all Chris Jones has excelled. When asked about his advice for other athletes who are being watched by scouts, Jones had this to say: "It is important to maintain a serious work ethic both on and off the field, and not give up." Good luck Chris from the Staff of the Sabres' Blade.

Spring Sports Home Games

Softball

April 21 - West Charlotte
April 27 - Independence
April 29 - Olympic

May 4 - Butler
May 7 - Myers Park

Baseball

April 21 - West Charlotte
April 22 - Olympic
April 28 - Independence

May 5 - Butler
May 7 - Myers Park

Women's Track

April 21 - Myers Park

Men's Track

April 21 - Myers Park

Senior Mysteries



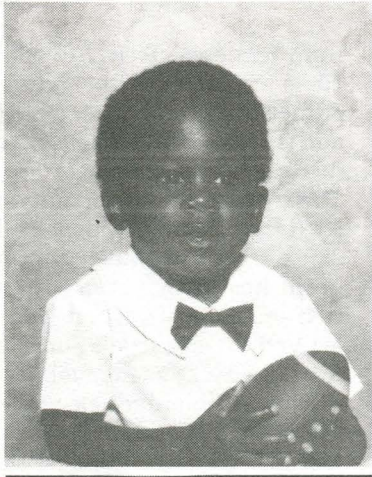
By Gia Clements

This senior mystery is no stranger to hard work or stress. In fact, you will find her on the Senior Superlatives page in the coming yearbook under "Most Stressed."

Stress is an understatement when looking at her schedule, which includes five AP classes and no electives. This mystery is also the President of NHS, and handles the coordinating of both junior and senior service projects.

She may be known as the founder of 'Yuppiness' here at South. You will rarely see this senior mystery without her cell phone, khakis, or iced cappuccino. Next year this senior will be found screaming along with thousands of Tarheels in the Dean Dome at Chapel Hill.

The answer is on page 3.



By Tanikkia Tyson

This all-around senior mystery is well known and well liked by his peers. They would agree that he has it together and is people oriented.

He has "MAD" athletic skills; he was drafted his ninth grade year as the varsity football team's defensive back. He also tumbled and rolled on the hardwood floor in wrestling matches.

Extracurricular activities are important to him as well. He participated in Senior Follies and is very involved in his church and gospel choir. He also works at the Pineville Food Lion.

This senior Sabre plans to further his education by attending Winston-Salem State or Johnson C. Smith University. He plans to major in marketing.

The answer is on Page 3.

Sabre Recognition

Jaena Howey received a Silver Medal in the Regional FHA/Herb Food Service/Culinary Arts competition held at CPCC on March 10. Keki Miller won a gold medal in the Creative Interiors event. She will advance to the state competition to be held in Greensboro in April.

Jerry Chastain won two awards in the "Excellence in Flexography" competition. Eric Connelly won one award. Both student's designs have been submitted to another national competition.

Lindsay Wilson and Nadia Jilani scored in the 90th percentile or above on the Level II standardized German test sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of German. Melanie Pfeifer scored in or above the 90th percentile on

the Level III test.

Dustin Joyce was recognized for selling the most tickets at a fund-raiser sponsored by the Charlotte Sister Cities.

The following students were inducted into the German Honor Society on April 8th: Michael Booth, Dennis Cowardin, Brett Emmerton, Ireni Esquerra, Nadia Jilani, Lindsey Pritchard, Grant Smith, Matthew Strother, Jason Surratt, Athan Vrettos, Sudip Vyas, Jennifer Williams, Anna Williamson, and Lindsay Wilson.

South ROTC cadet Michelle Love was one of 400 students from around the country to attend the National Defense Leadership Forum on Defense, Intelligence, and Diplomacy in Washington, D.C.

Speckman crowned Homecoming King

By Karen Whichard

On February 20, 1998, Eric Speckman was crowned Reverse Homecoming King at half-time of the Myers Park basketball game. Eric is an Outstanding Senior at South and is also a Phil Hughston nominee. He participates in baseball, is president of Spanish Honor Society, and is Senior Class president.

Lawrence Hancock was first runner-up. Jason Gardner and Kyle Hall tied for second runner-up. The other court members were Brent Townsend, Dennis Cowardin, Aaron Alexander, Mario Grier, Doug Neill, Cory Waleski, Shawn Millington, Matt Johnson, Kyle Hall, and John Van Brederode.

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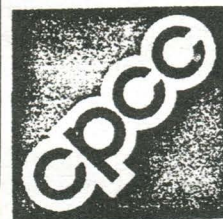
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